

SENATE RESOLUTION 123  
By Carter

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate R. L. "Buddy" Patey  
on his recent induction into the Tennessee  
Sports Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, each year, after a rigorous selection process, an elite group of highly  
qualified athletic figures are inducted into the prestigious Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, fittingly, the 1998 inductees into the Hall of Fame included R. L. "Buddy"  
Patey, who is a nationally recognized authority on sports officiating; and

WHEREAS, a native of Tupelo, Mississippi, Mr. Patey was the captain of his high  
school's football and baseball teams; and

WHEREAS, after bravely serving his country during World War II, he was offered a  
scholarship to Ole Miss, but chose instead to attend Union University and has made Jackson,  
Tennessee his home ever since; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Patey served admirably as a Southeastern Conference football official  
for twenty years and as an S.E.C. football observer for two years after he had retired as an  
official; and

WHEREAS, he officiated seven bowl games, including the Bluebonnet, the Gator, the  
Tangerine, the Cotton, the Liberty, the Peach and the Orange bowls; and

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WHEREAS, this distinguished referee officiated more than 200 games, including traditional S.E.C. rivalries, intersectional games, crucial televised contests, and seven consecutive Alabama-Auburn games; and

WHEREAS, his illustrious career also included commendable service in the Ohio Valley Conference as Supervisor of Officials for twenty years, as chief umpire and as president of the O.V.C. Football Officials Association; and

WHEREAS, the highly regarded Mr. Patey has also been active in high school football officiating, refereeing more than 500 games, five state championships and 17 bowl games; and

WHEREAS, he is one of only two persons who have officiated the state's All-Star Game twice (including the inaugural game); and

WHEREAS, for the last 15 years, Mr. Patey has served expertly as the Coordinator of Officials for the Tennessee State Football Championships; and

WHEREAS, a man of international renown, he traveled to Germany in March 1998 and conducted a very well received clinic for the top football officials in that country; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Patey generously contributes his time as Secretary of Collegiate Commissioners Association and Football Supervisors and as a valuable member of the Editorial Committee for the *NCAA Football Rule Book*; and

WHEREAS, he has also authored a popular and informative children's book, *The Illustrated Rules of Football*, has written a respected column, "Ask the Ref", for two newspapers, and has hosted radio and television sports shows for several years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Patey has also served with distinction as Vice-Mayor of Jackson, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, his long list of notable accolades and honors includes induction into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Hall of Fame and the Jackson-Madison County Sports Hall of Fame, his much deserved receipt of the Lawrenceburg Quarterback Club Officiating Award, and the Jackson Young Man of the Year Award and having a "Buddy Patey Day" designated in his honor in Camden; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we should pause in our deliberations to specially recognize and commend R. L. "Buddy" Patey; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, , That we honor R. L. "Buddy" Patey for his numerous contributions to football officiating in Tennessee and congratulate him on his induction into the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.